

BOOKS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Reviewed on "Across the Fence" on WCAX

Wednesday, December 1, 2010 12:15

by Amy Howlett, Vermont Department of Libraries, Margaret Woodruff,
Charlotte Public Library, and Judy Simpson of WCAX

Boyce, Frank Cottrell. **COSMIC**. Walden Pond Press, 2010. \$16.99. ISBN 978-0-0618-3683-1. Hardcover. Ages 9 and up.

Liam is a normal boy who is easily mistaken for an adult. That's the ticket to his trip in outer space when he and his best friend win a chance to board a Chinese rocket.

Buckingham, Alan. **THE KITCHEN GARDEN**. DK Adult, 2009. \$22.95. ISBN 978-0-7566-5014-8. Paper. Adult.

A beautiful and useful gardening book with a month-by-month calendar so you'll know just when to harvest your butternut squash. Share with a garden-loving friend.

Collins, Suzanne. **THE HUNGER GAMES**. Scholastic Press, 2008. \$17.99. ISBN 978-0-4390-2348-1. Hardcover. Scholastic Press, 2010. \$8.99. ISBN 978-0-4390-2352-8. Paper. Book one of the trilogy. Young adult.

One teenager of the 24 contestants will survive the Games, a televised spectacle that keeps the impoverished country enthralled. Kat is a hunter; is that a winning skill?

Fleischman, Paul. **THE DUNDERHEADS**. Illustrated by David Roberts. Candlewick, 2009. \$16.99. ISBN 978-0-7636-2498-9. Preschool and up.

Miss Breakbone heaps insult upon injury, alienating the whole class. Einstein accepts the leads the Dunderheads in a bold assault on Breakbone's castle.

Frost, Helen. **CROSSING STONES**. FSG, 2009. \$16.99. ISBN 978-0-3743-1653-2. Hardcover. Young adult-Adult.

Muriel's story brings immediacy to the events of 1917 and the impact of World War I on the United States. A tender, lovely story of two neighboring families for teens and adults.

Hewitt, Ben. **THE TOWN THAT FOOD SAVED**. Rodale Books, 2010. \$24.99. ISBN 978-1-6052-9686-9. Hardcover. Adult.

Hardwick, Vermont, has created a new layer of local industry with organic farming and excellent food products at its core. Great gift for the localvore or foodie on your list.

Kitamura, Satoshi. **WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY HAIR?** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2009. \$9.99. ISBN 978-0-5472-3934-7. Board Book. Preschool-Grade 2.

Lion is getting ready for a party but what to do with his hair? A friendly giraffe barber tries out many 'dos before finding the right one. Fun activity for Preschool to 2nd grade.

Kostova, Elizabeth. **THE SWAN THIEVES.** Little, Brown, 2010. \$26.99. ISBN 978-0-3160-6578-8. Hardcover. Back Bay Books, 2010. \$15.99. ISBN 978-0-3160-6579-5. Paper. Adult.

A famous painter attacks a masterpiece in the National Gallery. Understanding his actions changes the life of his psychiatrist in this leisurely novel, romance, and mystery..

Larsson, Stieg. **THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNET'S NEST.** Knopf, 2010. \$27.95. ISBN 978-0-3072-6999-7. Hardcover. Random House, 2010. \$28.00. ISBN 978-0-7393-7771-0. Paper, LP. Adult.

Lisbeth Salander, computer hacker, abused child, and careful planner joins Mikael Blomkvist to defeat the skilled, evil and corrupt in Larsson's explosive finale.

McCall Smith, Alexander. **44 SCOTLAND STREET.** Read by Robert Ian Mackenzie. Recorded Books, 2005. \$34.99. ISBN 978-1-4193-3383-5. Adult.

An Edinburg apartment building hosts many interesting tenants. Save this charming audio book, originally a weekly serial, for Vermont holiday driving.

Roberts, Nora. **VISION IN WHITE.** (Bride Quartet Series, #1). Berkely Trade, 2009. \$16.00. ISBN 978-0-4252-2751-0. Paper. Thorndike Press, 2009. \$35.95. ISBN 978-1-4104-1537-0. Hardcover, LP. Adult.

Four best friends use their complementary skills to plan weddings. *Vision* tells the photographer's story, as she uses her lens, falls in love and heads for her own wedding.

Scanlon, Liz Garton. *All the World.* Illustrated by Marla Frazee. Beach Lane Books, 2009. \$17.99. ISBN 978-1-4169-8580-8.

One day at the beach interwoven through different families and generations. With heartwarming illustrations by Marla Frazee, the story shines with inspiration and hope for all the world.

Schubert, Leda. **FEEDING THE SHEEP.** Illustrated by Andrea U'Ren. FSG, 2010. \$16.99. ISBN 978-0-3743-2296-0. Preschool and up.

Mother and daughter illustrate the steps from sheep to knitted sweater in this lively rhymed picture book by a local Vermont author.



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